

Claims

What is claimed is:

- 5 1. A method for allowing call screening in a hosted voicemail system environment comprising:
 - a) directing a call to a hosted voicemail system, which serves as a voicemail system for a telephone terminal; and
 - b) allowing the telephone terminal to monitor a message being left in the hosted voicemail system.
- 10 2. The method of claim 1 further comprising allowing a user of the telephone terminal to take the call while the message is being left in the hosted voicemail system.
- 15 3. The method of claim 2 wherein the call is directed to the hosted voicemail system by a telephony switch supporting the telephone terminal after a select number of rings and further comprising:
 - a) establishing a first connection to connect the call to the hosted voicemail system;
 - 20 b) establishing a second connection with the telephone terminal; and
 - c) connecting the first and second connections.
4. The method of claim 3 further comprising sending a first signal to the telephone terminal to open a speaker channel.
- 25 5. The method of claim 4 further comprising receiving a second signal from the telephone terminal indicative of the user taking the call.
6. The method of claim 5 further comprising sending a third signal to the hosted voicemail system indicative of the user taking the call.
- 30 7. The method of claim 2 further comprising:
 - a) forwarding incoming calls, including the call, from callers to the hosted voicemail system;

- b) establishing a second call from the hosted voicemail system to the telephone terminal upon the hosted voicemail system receiving the call; and
 - c) connecting the call and the second call,
- 5 wherein the telephone terminal will open a speaker channel upon receiving the second call to allow monitoring of the message.
- 8. The method of claim 7 further comprising receiving a signal at the hosted voicemail system indicating the user is taking the call.
- 10 9. The method of claim 8 further comprising effecting transfer of the call to the telephone terminal upon receiving the signal.
- 15 10. The method of claim 7 wherein the hosted voicemail system provides caller identification information related to the call with the second call.
- 11. The method of claim 2 further comprising:
 - a) attempting to connect the call to the telephone terminal prior to directing the call to the hosted voicemail system;
 - 20 b) receiving a feature code from the telephone terminal; and
 - c) establishing a connection between the call, the hosted voicemail system, and the telephone terminal to allow monitoring of the message via a speaker channel.
- 25 12. The method of claim 11 further comprising receiving a signal from the telephone terminal indicating the user is taking the call and establishing a connection to the telephone terminal to facilitate the call.
- 30 13. The method of claim 2 further comprising:
 - a) attempting to connect the call to the telephone terminal prior to directing the call to the hosted voicemail system;
 - b) establishing a second call from the telephone terminal to the voicemail system; and

- c) establishing a connection between the call and the second call to allow monitoring of the message via a speaker channel.

5 14. The method of claim 13 further comprising receiving a signal from the telephone terminal indicating the user is taking the call and establishing a connection to the telephone terminal to facilitate the call.

10 15. The method of claim 1 wherein the telephone terminal is adapted to automatically open a speaker channel for call screening.

16. The method of claim 1 further comprising sending a message to the hosted voicemail system to control processing of fragments of the messages resulting from call screening.

15 17. A system for allowing call screening in a hosted voicemail system environment comprising:

- a) means for directing a call to a hosted voicemail system, which serves as a voicemail system for a telephone terminal; and
 - b) means for allowing the telephone terminal to monitor a message being left in the hosted voicemail system.
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18. The system of claim 17 further comprising means for allowing a user of the telephone terminal to take the call while the message is being left in the hosted voicemail system.

25 19. The system of claim 18 wherein the call is directed to the hosted voicemail system by a telephony switch supporting the telephone terminal after a select number of rings and further comprising:

- a) means for establishing a first connection to connect the call to the hosted voicemail system;
- b) means for establishing a second connection with the telephone terminal; and
- c) means for connecting the first and second connections.

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20. The system of claim 19 further comprising means for sending a first signal to the telephone terminal to open a speaker channel.
- 5 21. The system of claim 20 further comprising means for receiving a second signal from the telephone terminal indicative of the user taking the call.
- 10 22. The system of claim 21 further comprising means for sending a third signal to the hosted voicemail system indicative of the user taking the call.
23. The system of claim 18 further comprising:
- 15 a) means for forwarding incoming calls, including the call, from callers to the hosted voicemail system;
- b) means for establishing a second call from the hosted voicemail system to the telephone terminal upon the hosted voicemail system receiving the call; and
- 20 c) means for connecting the call and the second call, wherein the telephone terminal will open a speaker channel upon receiving the second call to allow monitoring of the message.
24. The system of claim 23 further comprising means for receiving a signal at the hosted voicemail system indicating the user is taking the call.
- 25 25. The system of claim 24 further comprising means for effecting transfer of the call to the telephone terminal upon receiving the signal.
26. The system of claim 23 further comprising means for the hosted voicemail system to provide caller identification information related to the call with the second call.
- 30 27. The system of claim 18 further comprising:
- a) means for attempting to connect the call to the telephone terminal prior to directing the call to the hosted voicemail system;

- b) means for receiving a feature code from the telephone terminal;
and
 - c) means for establishing a connection between the call, the hosted voicemail system, and the telephone terminal to allow monitoring
5 of the message via a speaker channel.
28. The system of claim 27 further comprising receiving a signal from the telephone terminal indicating the user is taking the call and means for establishing a connection to the telephone terminal to facilitate the call.
- 10 29. The system of claim 18 further comprising:
- a) means for attempting to connect the call to the telephone terminal prior to directing the call to the hosted voicemail system;
 - b) means for establishing a second call from the telephone terminal
15 to the voicemail system; and
 - c) means for establishing a connection between the call and the second call to allow monitoring of the message via a speaker channel.
- 20 30. The system of claim 29 further comprising means for receiving a signal from the telephone terminal indicating the user is taking the call and means for establishing a connection to the telephone terminal to facilitate the call.
- 25 31. The system of claim 17 further wherein the telephone terminal connected to the system is adapted to automatically open a speaker channel for call screening.
- 30 32. The system of claim 17 further comprising means for sending a message to the hosted voicemail system to control processing of fragments of the messages resulting from call screening.